

Littleton, Massachusetts  
Agriculture in Aquifer and Water Resource Districts  
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Health Ordinance

**PROPOSED BOARD OF HEALTH REGULATION:  
AGRICULTURE IN AQUIFER AND WATER RESOURCE DISTRICTS**

**1. AUTHORITY**

Under provisions of Chapter 111, Section 31 of the Massachusetts General Laws, the Littleton Board of Health hereby adopts the following regulations to protect ground and surface waters from contamination derived from agricultural practices and uses.

**2. APPLICABILITY**

This Regulation shall apply to all agricultural activities and to operations feeding and sheltering more than twenty (20) livestock or one hundred (100) poultry, if located within an Aquifer or Water Resource District as established in the Littleton Zoning Bylaw.

**3. GENERAL**

Appropriate conservation measures shall be taken to minimize ground and surface water contamination associated with collection, storage, and disposal of wastes, field application of manure and fertilizer, and the storage and handling of toxic or hazardous materials, including pesticides and herbicides. Measures shall be in accordance with the USDA Soil Conservation Service Agricultural Waste Management Field Manual, 1975, as most recently Supplemented, except where specified otherwise below.

**4. ANIMAL WASTES**

All animal wastes, both liquid and solid, from stables, barns, feedlots and other confined areas used to feed and shelter livestock or poultry shall be properly collected, stored and disposed of.

**4.1 Waste Management System.**

A comprehensive agricultural waste management system approved by the Board of Health shall be required for operations feeding and sheltering more than 20 livestock or 100 poultry. Such waste management system shall have been reviewed by and commented on by the Cooperative Extension Service, Soil Conservation Service, or other organization with comparable expertise if approved by the Board of Health, prior to Board of Health action. The Board of Health shall

approve such plan upon its determination that the system proposed adequately protects groundwater against pollution from agricultural wastes.

#### 4.2 Waste Storage.

Manure storage sites shall:

- have a liquid-tight floor with no liquid drainage permitted;
- be located such that surface water runoff drains away from the storage area; and
- be of sufficient size to collect and store all wastes until such wastes can be properly disposed.

#### 4.3 Lagoons.

No lagoons or holding ponds shall be used if seepage or overflows can result.

#### 4.4 Excess Wastes.

Animal waste in excess of quantities usable under Section 5.2 Application shall be disposed of outside of any Aquifer District.

### 5. FERTILIZING

#### 5.1 Storage and Handling

Storage and handling of fertilizer shall be such that the contamination of ground and surface water is minimized.

#### 5.2 Application.

Manure and fertilizer spreading application shall be seasonable, consistent with, and not substantially in excess of the nitrogen uptake by the vegetation. Manure shall be incorporated into the soil within 48 hours of completion of application.

### 6. OTHER REQUIREMENTS

#### 6.1 Confinement Areas.

Tilled fields and animal confinement areas other than open pasture shall be set back from waterbodies' using filter strips, berms, animal exclusion fences, or other management devices as necessary to control erosion and surface water contamination, in accordance with the SCS Field Manual and supplements.